

IMPORTANCE OF CLEANLINESS.**THE NECESSITY OF DRAINING THE
PODS, CLEANING THE STREETS
AND REMOVING BACK-YARD
NUISANCES.**

Epidemics that have prevailed elsewhere by disregarding sanitary laws, and the risk which has been run at Big Stone Gap by the same stupid indifference, a warning worth the heeding.

The fact that Big Stone Gap has a healthful situation seems to be considered by the authorities, and even by the people themselves, as a sufficient guarantee against disease. It matters not how often this theory is exploded or how many cases of sickness result from a blind and obstinate adherence to it, little or nothing is done to drain the marshy depressions or remove the nuisances. The odors from the hog pen, back of Brown's saloon and the barber-shop, and the equally offensive ones that rise from slop pools about the kitchen of the Intermont hotel, to say nothing of the nuisances in other parts of the town, continue to fill the air in those tainted localities.

Small groups of citizens discuss the matter, declare that "something ought to be done," and haggle and haggle over it until their indignation reaches the usual harmless height, when some one proposes some refreshing beverage. The motion is carried with remarkable unanimity, the nuisances are, for the time at least, forgotten, and the programme is repeated day after day, while the offense becomes ranker and ranker, until it smells to heaven.

We have a city government. Why does it not enforce the ordinance against these evils, and why is not some steady, energetic and intelligent effort made to drain the pools and compel the owners of the hogs that wallow in them to pen these pests outside the inhabited parts of the town? These fat and greasy denizens go about grunting, covered with slime, their curled tails twisted over their backs, utterly unmolested, except by the dogs, who seem oddly enough to have the sanitary instinct more highly developed than their masters. They do show some activity, and, at times, disturb the grunters in their wallows. But the latter have grown rich, and powerful and numerous, as it were, and have acquired such an ascendancy and command of affairs that they pay little heed to the canine protests which break out in distracting clamors, some times in the day, but oftener about midnight or just before dawn.

Truly and seriously, "something ought to be done." It is idle to imagine we shall not have sickness, even in this high atmosphere, with these pestilential nuisances under our very noses. No air is so pure that it cannot be poisoned. With a temperature of 80 degrees, with stagnant water, and hog wallows, and offal piles and filthy back yards, disease is as much a certainty as the revolution of the planets.

The matter is too plain for discussion; and any community that submits patiently and servilely to these evils, when they have the power to correct them, deserves all the ill results that are sure to follow.

Roonoke was kept back for several years by an epidemic which drove its inhabitants, panic-stricken, from their homes; and a similar calamity here would not only set Big Stone Gap back for years to come, but would depreciate every foot of property 50 per cent., to say nothing of the loss of life.

The Post will speak plainly about such matters whether people like it or not. It will be too late to cry out against these evils after we have fallen victims of them; and the only possible way of preventing them is to expose and lash the indifference which permits them.

If the managers of hotels do not keep their premises clean for the sake of their guests and their own business interest, they should be made to do so by the law. If private citizens do not cleanse their back yards and remove their pig pens they should be heavily fined. If property owners do not drain their vacant lots and are out of the reach of the law, the city should drain them and levy a tax upon the lots to meet the cost and penalty.

We have an orderly town, let us also have a clean one. The volunteer police force have succeeded in suppressing all forms of violence; and whenever there is the least breach of the peace the town marshal or the police are prompt to arrest the offender. The result is, that one's property is better protected at Big Stone Gap, than in Louisville or New York. The

same element should see that the health laws, which are not less important, are also enforced. By doing so they would double the gratitude which the town already owes them for the incalculable benefits they have conferred upon it.

**OUR BUILDING COMPANY.
KEYNOTE TO THE BUILDING OF A
CITY.**

The following prospectus of "the Big Stone Gap Building and Investment Company" has been printed in a neat pamphlet form for distribution.

No movement has yet been set on foot here which will do as much solid, practical good for the building up of the future city as this one. It is the true keynote to the plan by which the town must grow. It is in the hands of the right set of men, and there is no doubt their plans will be successfully carried out. There are a few thousand dollars of the stock yet untaken, and the company has completed its arrangements to begin active work as soon as the minimum amount of stock has been subscribed.

There is no safer or more profitable investment for capital in this section. With all the inducements offered by the land companies as a basis for investments, it is a practical certainty.

PROSPECTUS OF THE BIG STONE GAP IMPROVEMENT AND INVESTMENT CO.

R. T. Irwin, President; R. A. Ayres, E. P. Bryan, J. M. Goodloe, E. M. Hardin, W. E. Addison, and H. E. Fox, directors. Authorized capital, \$100,000.

PURPOSES OF THE ORGANIZATION.

As its name indicates, this company was formed for the two fold purpose of an investment for capital, safe and profitable, and to attain this end by means of building at Big Stone Gap. The class of buildings more immediately contemplated, because for this class there is the most crying demand, and in it, under all circumstances, the greatest profit, is homes for laboring men of the better class, mechanics, artisans and skilled workers in iron and steel; men who regularly draw good pay, and can afford to maintain their families in neat, comfortable and attractive cottages. In the further working out of their plans the company may embrace other classes of buildings, it being the steadfast purpose of those who will direct the affairs of the company to enhance the value of the stock always, by supplying such demands as will pay large profits in doing so. These houses the company will rent, lease or sell, either on the usual terms, or, if it can be made to pay them better, on the installment plan, to tenants or others.

It is proposed to build within the next twelve months not less than two hundred and fifty, and if possible five hundred houses of this class, at a cost each varying from \$400 to \$800.

PLAN OF THE ORGANIZATION AND PERSONNEL OF THE OFFICERS.

The charter gives ample scope for carrying out the ends outlined above. It fixes the minimum capital stock at \$50,000, providing that the stockholders may at any time increase this amount to any sum not to exceed \$100,000. The capital stock is divided into shares of the par value of \$100 each. The liability of any stockholder is limited to the amount due and unpaid on the shares he has subscribed for.

The stock is to be paid on the call of the board of directors, in amounts not to exceed 25 per cent. at any time within one month from the date of subscription, or any time thereafter, and not more than 15 per cent. per month subsequently.

The charter names the officers for the first year as follows: President, R. T. Irwin; directors, R. A. Ayres, E. P. Bryan, H. E. Fox, J. M. Goodloe, W. E. Addison and E. M. Hardin.

This selection of officers has, as far as is known, given entire satisfaction to those in a position best to judge. They are all largely interested financially in building up the city, and will devote time and energy to this enterprise.

INDUCEMENTS OFFERED BY THE LAND COMPANIES.

Recognizing the fact that the future of Big Stone Gap rests upon the laboring men for a foundation, and seeing the absolute necessity of furnishing them with homes, the various land companies here have readily agreed to offer to the Building and Investment Company liberal inducements in the way of real estate, in order to insure the carrying out of their plans. They have offered very desirable lots at prices deemed nominal, not more than from one-half to one fourth the market value of the property, and in some cases offering to donate them. They give most liberal terms, also, asking no cash,

but the notes of the company, at one, two and three years, so as to allow all the ready money of the company to go at once into building. As a further inducement they agree to put the building restriction on only one-half of the lots so sold, leaving the company free to sell the other half on speculation, if it sees fit, at a large profit.

1. On these terms, the Big Stone Gap Improvement Company puts into the Building and Investment Company 100 very desirable lots, mostly 50 by 120 feet in size, well located for this purpose, being near the S. A. & O. depot, and the furnace sites and other labor centres. These lots were scheduled at from \$250 to \$350, and are put to this company at \$100 each.

2. The East Big Stone Gap Land and Improvement Company is equally liberal. It will donate twenty-five admirably located lots for actual business purposes; or, if the Building and Investment Company desires as many as 100, they will sell them on the same terms and conditions as before mentioned, and at about one-third their scheduled price, in no case to exceed \$100 per lot.

3. The Fayette Land Company (subdividing the L. & N. R. R. property) makes equally as valuable concessions upon their centrally located property. They will put in to the company a large number of lots (the number to be agreed upon hereafter) upon as liberal terms and conditions as the Improvement Company.

4. The Sulphur Spring Company, which has sold off the bulk of its holdings, yet makes a proposition to sell twenty lots, mostly 50 feet front, upon terms and conditions similar to the others, at prices ranging from \$37.50 to \$100 per lot, being almost a nominal price.

5. The Southwest Virginia Mineral Land Company.

6. The West End Land Company.

7. Gen. P. W. Hardin.

8. Messrs. Fox & Whittridge.

All the above mentioned own valuable and extensive plots of town-site lands, admirably adapted to the purposes of the B. & I. Company, and all have made propositions similar to the other land companies and equally as liberal, embracing in the aggregate about 300 lots.

In addition to this President Ayres, of the Improvement Company, acting for his company, has offered to the B. & I. Company a complete brick plant, now owned by his company, at a very low figure and on very easy terms, and a long lease on five acres of valuable brick clay land for nothing.

Overtures have been made to the B. & I. Company, also, to put in to them at a low price and favorable terms, a controlling interest in the stock of an excellent planing mill and dryer.

The periods at which construction must begin on the lands of each company, in order to secure the offers made by each company respectively, can be so arranged as to extend through many months, and make it highly probable that a paid-up capital of \$50,000 can be so operated as to comply with all conditions, and secure to the B. & I. Company all the benefits offered by all the land companies enumerated above. It is practically certain that a paid-up capital of \$100,000 will do so. A capital of \$50,000, by means of making sales from time to time after the first houses are completed, and of using to advantage the large amounts of good collateral security that will come into the hands of the company, can be made to do a business of two or three times that amount.

Thus it will be seen that all the land companies here are fully awake to the importance to them and to the lasting interests of Big Stone Gap, to have in successful operation, for the purposes indicated, a strong financial company, with a large amount of ready money amassed and concentrated upon one purpose.

With these exceedingly liberal inducements, so unanimously offered, it is doubtful if any other stock in Southwest Virginia is at once so safe and so profitable an investment to capital.

BASIS OF INVESTMENTS.

The foregoing statements, made somewhat at length, already indicate the main elements of profits to be derived from investments in this stock, but there are other important features still. From these statements it seems that the Building and Investment Company with a paid up capital stock of \$50,000, extendable to \$100,000, can get control of real estate amounting at the present market value to from \$75,000 to \$100,000, if sold to individual purchasers, by an outlay of from \$25,000 to \$30,000 and that payable in one, two and three years.

By erecting a large number of buildings of about the same pattern, they can be built at a minimum cost. The best and most responsible builders and architects can be easily secured, and by taking large

contracts and being sure in their pay, they can afford to build at minimum profits.

Materials can be furnished here, or shipped in from the open markets, as cheaply as any other point similarly located. These houses can readily be sold at a handsome advance on the house itself, or held by the Company and rented at a large per cent. on the investment. The installment plan of making sales to workmen has been found to be a very safe and profitable one.

The demand for this class of buildings at Big Stone Gap will for many years be far in advance of any probable supply.

To summarise, then, we have the following means of realizing profits on the investments:

1. Profits from rents and leases.
2. Profits over the cost price to the company on the buildings themselves, if sold.
3. Profits over the cost price to the company on the lots, if sold, on which the buildings stand.
4. Profits over the cost price to the company from the sales of one-half the entire number of lots, which number will be freed from the building restrictions.
5. Miscellaneous profits, such as from the brick yard and planing mill, should the company see fit to embrace these in their scheme.

EAST BIG STONE GAP.**A SUBURBAN TOWN WITH ENERGY
AND CAPITAL BEHIND IT.**

Industries Projected That Will be Rapidly Pushed to Completion.

One of the most useful adjuncts in making Big Stone Gap a commercial metropolis, as well as one of the most enterprising land companies in itself in Southwest Virginia, is the East Big Stone Gap Land and Improvement Company. This company have incorporated several hundred acres of beautiful town-site land immediately adjoining the corporate limits of Big Stone Gap on the east, and they propose to make a suburban town of great importance. To the successful accomplishment of this object, nature has done all that could be desired. The land itself is admirably adapted for business and residence purposes. No more healthful location can be found anywhere. The South Fork of Powell's River flows with swift descent through the town limits, giving all the water supply needed for any number of manufacturing industries, no matter how extensive. To further this feature of their plans, the company have reserved ample manufacturing sites along the river, on both sides, which, although it is worth thousands of dollars per acre, they offer to donate to worthy manufacturing enterprises, and give substantial aid of other kinds also.

The S. A. & O. R. runs through the town, and is putting in extensive side tracks, depot facilities, etc. Other railroads that enter Big Stone Gap will build into the town, besides the Belt Railway and Dummy Line, which will connect the suburban town closely with all parts of the mother city. In addition to these, it is within easy reach of all the modern city improvements, now being put into the latter city, such as water works, electric lights, etc., branches of which will be extended into this town as occasion may demand.

This company's lands occupy a central position in the town-site lands of the Powell Valley here, and as there is no reasonable doubt that all the available town-site lands around them will be in demand for town purposes at an early date, it follows that any development in any part of the Valley will only serve to enhance the value of these lands. The Big Stone Gap Improvement Company's plots bound them on the west and the north; the South Appalachian Land Company's town-site lands on the east, while on the west these lands command the entrance to Powell's Valley by the Wildcat Valley route, and also the entrance to the vast iron ore deposits in Wallcut Ridge, as well as to as fine forests of hard woods as can be found on the continent.

The sites of the Iron Furnaces and other great industrial enterprises are within a few hundred yards of this town-site.

The hundreds, and by and by the thousands, of workmen employed here will be driven by the high prices of other real estate near by, to seek cheap homes in the town. It will be the steadfast policy of this company to meet the demands of these classes, until their residence property is completely built up with the homes of industrious and independent workmen. The company have made a plat of their

property have laid off and graded streets, alleys and boulevards, and are now building a handsome and convenient \$10,000 hotel, which is situated on one of the most beautiful knolls in the entire valley. A male academy building and several church buildings are being agitated, and numerous private residences, and business houses will be constructed as soon as labor and material can be gotten together.

No better man in Southwest Virginia than the Hon. John B. F. Mills could be found to head such an enterprise and lead it to ultimate success. A native of Wise county, his heart is in its development to that high plane of commercial prosperity that he knows its unrivaled natural resources entitle it to occupy. East Big Stone Gap is the child of his brain, and his wide acquaintance with the leading men of Virginia, his unbounded energy and enthusiasm, his liberality, sagacity and foresight, backed up by a wise and progressive directory and aided by the active and efficient secretary of the company, Mr. S. C. Berryman, he will unquestionably make of this town not only a conspicuous success in itself, but a most important factor in the building here of a great industrial city.

BRAVE MATTIE HESTER.**An Interesting Employee of the
Post-Office Department.**

A Little Georgian Woman Who Has an Envious Record—Three Times a Week She Carries the Mails from One County to Another

One of the most interesting figures in every-day life in this section of the State, says a New York World correspondent at Tweed, Ga., is pretty Mattie Hester, who carries Uncle Sam's mails from the village to the point at which she lives on a farm, twenty miles away. The fair mail-carrier drives a little road cart, in which she has bravely gone over her route every day, rain or shine, since she succeeded in obtaining the position. If the mails are late one may be sure the delay did not occur in her territory, for no stress of weather can deter this undaunted little public official. The whole country side knows and respects her, but if any protection is needed on her lonely journeys her own courage and determination of character will supply it.

This year Mattie succeeded over all competitors in securing the mail route from Condon in Laurens County to Lott in Montgomery County, and three times a week she covers a distance of about forty miles through a wild and sparsely settled section, and her cheery voice is often heard along the road in her efforts to drive dull care away. At her side in a small pocket, fully exposed to view, is a handsomely polished No. 38 Smith & Wesson of the most approved model, and as she is a crack shot woe be to the highwayman or tramp who tries to bar the way to that part of the United States mails under the immediate care of Mattie Hester. She has perfect confidence in her own ability to defend herself, and looks with contempt upon those timid members of her own sex who fear to go anywhere without an escort.

Independence of spirit is so striking a characteristic of this unique young person that the narration of some of her remarkable undertakings would convey an impression of masculinity. In her own home or under ordinary circumstances Miss Hester is the embodiment of womanliness. She lives with her widowed mother, two sisters and a young brother, but is the real head and director of the family. Her beauty is of the true Southern type—wavy black hair, deep blue eyes, beautiful figure and complexion and the whitest set of teeth imaginable. Her jaunty air and pretty face never fail to attract the attention of strangers as she rattles swiftly by in her cart, looking neither to the right nor to the left, but attending strictly to business.

Attention to business, indeed, is the chief distinguishing feature of a character whose strength has made Miss Hester remarkable in many ways. Still in her twentieth year and full of life and energy, she is determined to make her way to fortune. She has already shown business qualifications that would do credit to any man. Last

year she superintended all the work on the farm. She helped to plant and harvest the crop and took it to market, where her tact enabled her to secure the highest prices.

Thinking that she saw a chance to make some money last winter, she went into the woods and got a quantity of timber, which she rafted and placed in the hands of her brother, to be disposed of in the Darian lumber market. This venture netted the enterprising little "cracker" a handsome profit. Later on, with her own hands, she cut down and split enough fence rails to enclose one section of the farm. So it seems hard work has no terrors for Miss Mattie, nor is she at all squeamish about the kind of work she undertakes, provided only that it offers promise of bettering her condition. With all her various duties she still finds some leisure and she employs it in teaching writing.

Miss Mattie in her relations with the opposite sex preserves the same marked individuality which characterizes her in other things. She doesn't care a rush about men; in fact, she has no time to think about other mails than those it is her duty to distribute.

The little mail-carrier is very poorly paid, and the forty-mile journeys are rapidly taking the flesh off the sturdy broncho that draws her cart.

"I don't think I shall carry the mails three times a week much longer," said she to the World correspondent. "It is telling on my horse. Besides, the small pay I receive does not warrant it. If I can get my petition signed, I will perhaps get off with twice a week, which I think will suit the public quite as well."

IN A HOG'S STOMACH.

Here is a Very Strange Story or a Most Inexplicable Lie.

A Winston County (Ala.) peddler tells a story which, if not true, evinces an imaginative power which no one would ever suppose him to possess.

A farmer named Greene while in town was persuaded to buy a few Chinese lily bulbs, which will grow if placed in a bottle or jar. They resemble in appearance a diminutive steer's head, and sell on the streets for a mere trifle.

Farmer Greene took a fancy to them and bought a dozen of them. When he reached home he had no bottle or jar to put them in and threw them into the hog lot with a bucket of spoiled potatoes.

A few days afterward one of his largest hogs became sick, refusing food, and lying down in a corner grunted as if in constant pain. No signs of disease could be discovered, but a few days after the hog died. The cause of death was discussed in the usual family council around the supper table, and it was finally concluded best to cut up the hog and find out, if possible, whether or not the disease was contagious.

This was done, and the cause of death was instantly apparent. The animal had swallowed a Chinese lily bulb whole, and there was sufficient moisture in the stomach to cause it to grow. The bulb had not only sprouted and sprouted, but leaves had actually formed. The animal was not adapted to the purchase of a flower garden and died.

A Word About Mean Wills.

Husbands who profess to love their wives intensely, sometimes play them a very mean trick when about to depart for that better land where there is "neither marrying nor giving in marriage." One might suppose that a tender spouse, on the eve of being divorced by death from the partner of his joys and sorrows, would be governed in the disposition of his worldly goods by an earnest desire to render her earthly future a happy one. If he has a fortune to bequeath to her, why should he make a dog-in-the-manger will, providing that she shall enjoy it only during her widowhood? What right has he to condemn her to a life of loneliness, under penalty of pauperism in case she shall marry again? Husbands about to shuffle off this mortal coil, if you desire to be tenderly borne in mind by your relicts, don't deal with them after this contemptible fashion.

Try the Post's new job office. It turns out every variety of job work on short notice.

EAST BIG STONE GAP, VA.

A BEAUTIFUL TOWN SITE

MIDWAY BETWEEN THE

COAL FIELDS AND IRON ORES

Adjoining the City of Big Stone Gap on one side, and the South Appalachian Land Company's valuable and extensive Town Site Lands on the other.

UNSURPASSED WATER POWER

Being on the South Fork of Powell's River. Only a few hundred yards from the great FURNACE SITES and other centres of Industry. Surrounded by unrivalled FORESTS OF HARD WOODS. On the line of the S. A. & O. R. R., and accessible to all the railroads centering at Big Stone Gap.

Within reach of all the the GREAT PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS now going forward there--BELT RAILWAY, DUMMY LINE, ELECTRIC LIGHTS, WATER WORKS, Etc. It is the key to the building in the beautiful Powell's Valley of

A GREAT MANUFACTURING CITY.

Foundation of a \$10,000 Hotel begun. Buildings, street and other internal improvements, of various sorts, now actively going forward Desirable and Cheap Homes.

Most Liberal Inducements Offered Manufacturing Enterprises of All Kinds

For information in detail address, at Big Stone Gap, Va.,

THE EAST BIG STONE GAP LAND AND IMPROVEMENT COMPANY.

J. B. F. MILLS, President, or S. C. BERRYMAN, Secretary.